

25 YEARS OF BASEBALL *Exploring 25 years of Topps baseball, one pack at a time*



Pack Break: 2007 Topps Updates & Highlights

Written by Steve on October 8th, 2010



"After less than a year in the Minors, Tim broke in as a Giants force in 2007. The '06 first-rounder fanned 10 or more twice before the 2007 All-Star Game, including a 12-strikeout, no-walk shutout of Arizona on July 1. He yielded just three hits in that win. "He's not in awe of anything," Giants manager Bruce Bochy says of the poised right-hander."

2007 Topps Updates & Highlights:

1. **#UH158 Tim Lincecum (Rookie Card)**
2. #UH79 Adam Wainwright
3. #UH139 Casey Kotchman
4. #UH66 Aaron Miles
5. #UH26 Kameron Loe
6. Red Back #UH247 Hideki Okajima (All-Star)
7. Red Back #UH1 Tony Armas Jr.
8. Gold #UH297 J.P. Howell (Serial#0714/2007)
9. #UH247 Hideki Okajima (All-Star)
10. #UH228 Carlos Beltran (All-Star)

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I have a mountain of unopened Topps baseball card boxes from each of the past 25 years, and I'm going to open every single pack right here, one pack at a time...

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Pack Break: 1999 Topps Series 1

Written by Steve on October 7th, 2010



It's like an All-Star team in a pack!

"In 1998, Rodriguez became the first AL shortstop to reach 30 homers and 30 steals — and he needed just two-thirds of a season to do it. "Junior Jr." ranks with Ken Griffey Jr. as the best player in the AL, historically known as — what else? — the "Junior" League."

1999 Topps Series 1:

1. #209 Pat Cline/Ramon Hernandez/Jayson Werth (Prospects)
2. #217 Mamon Tucker/Rick Elder (Draft Picks) (Rookie)
3. #15 Manny Ramirez
4. #96 Greg Vaughn
5. #100 Ken Griffey Jr.
6. **Lords of the Diamond #LD7 Alex Rodriguez**
7. #155 Magglio Ordonez
8. #63 Eric Karros
9. #163 Gary DiSarcina
10. #43 Jorge Posada
11. #90 Jose Hernandez

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Pack Break: 2005 Topps Updates & Highlights

Written by Steve on October 6th, 2010

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Trades

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John Bateman on JUMBO Sunday: 2004 Topps Series 1
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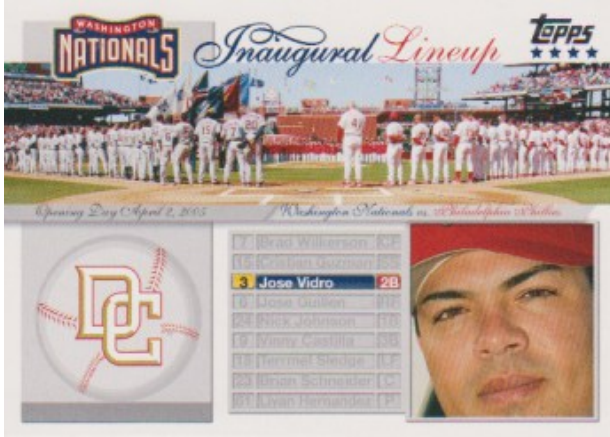
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Sheesh... how did they come up with such an ugly card design? anyways...

"Jose singled to left and came around to score on a bases-loaded walk to Vinny Castilla in the seventh inning of the Nationals Opening Day loss to the Phillies. It sliced Washington's deficit to 7-4, and although it was not enough, Vidro liked his team's heart. "With this ballclub, we are going to fight every game," he said. "We fight to the end.""

2005 Topps Updates & Highlights:

- 1. #UH44 A.J. Pierzynski
- 2. #UH292 Jonathan Sanchez (First Year) (Rookie)
- 3. #UH20 Scott Podsednik
- 4. #UH90 Chris Lambert (Prospect)
- 5. #UH22 Orlando Hernandez
- 6. #UH40 Al Leiter
- 7. **Washington Nationals Inaugural Lineup #NI-JV Jose Vidro**
- 8. #UH207 Edwin Encarnacion (Futures Game All-Star)
- 9. #UH188 Derrek Lee (All-Star)
- 10. #UH123 Joe Crede (Postseason Highlights)

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Pack Break: 1990 Topps Traded

Written by Steve on October 5th, 2010



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FEATURED P

Adam Dunn

Albert Pujols

Alex Rodriguez

Austin Kearns

Babe Ruth

Barry Bonds

Barry Larkin

Cal Ripken

Chad Cordero

Chipper Jones

Cristian Guzman

Dave Winfield

David Ortiz

David Wright

Derek Jeter

Evan Longoria

Felipe Lopez

Gary Carter

Gary Sheffield

George Brett

Greg Maddux

Ichiro

Ivan Rodriguez

Jacoby Ellsbury

Jose Guillen

Jose Vidro

Ken Griffey Jr.

Livan Hernandez

Manny Ramirez

Mark McGwire

Matt Williams

Mickey Mantle

Kiecker started 30 games for the Boston Red Sox in 1990 and 1991, going 10-12 with a 4.68 ERA.

1990 Topps Traded:

1. #110T Scott Sanderson
2. #98T Jim Presley
3. #17T Casey Candaele
4. **#50T Dana Kiecker (Rookie)**
5. #7T Kevin Bass
6. #115T Matt Sinatra
7. #37T Bud Harrelson (Manager)

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Pack Break: 2002 Topps Series 1

Written by Steve on October 4th, 2010



"Rodriguez has become so popular, it's downright comical. Indeed, Alex was a superhero in the comic book Rangers in Dangerland — one of several team promotions that have showcased the star shortstop. In August 2001, young fans received Rodriguez lunch boxes on the 11th, and A-Rod bobblehead dolls on the 24th. In previous years, kids enjoyed Alex Rodriguez Bammer Bears and "A-Rod's 40/40 Crunch," a tasty cereal that honored his 40/40 season of 1998."

A-Rod's numbers have been declining over the past 3 years. He ended the 2010 regular season hitting only .270 with 30 home runs. His average had been .303 with 43 home runs, while in 2007 he hit .314 with 54 homers. Could it be the rapid decline associated with quitting steroids (possibly as late as 2008)? Or is it normal decline due to age? Or just a bad season?

2002 Topps Series 1:

1. #150 Carlos Delgado
2. #56 Mark McLemore
3. #114 Derek Bell
4. **Hobby Masters #HM8 Alex Rodriguez**
5. #336 Barry Bonds (Season Highlight)
6. #221 Randy Wolf
7. #268 Placido Polanco
8. #45 Trevor Hoffman
9. #259 Joey Hamilton
10. #110 Andruw Jones

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Mike Piazza

Nick Johnson

Nolan Ryan

Ozzie Smith

Paul Molitor

Pedro Martinez

Randy Johnson

Rickey Henderson

Roger Clemens

Ryan Howard

Ryan Zimmerman

Tony Gwynn

Wade Boggs

JUMBO Sunday: 2004 Topps Traded and Rookies

Written by Steve on October 3rd, 2010

Five hobby packs of 2004 Topps Traded and Rookies cracked open for your enjoyment:

PACK 1



Jay Rainville was a promising pitching prospect before a nerve-related muscle problem ended his career in 2009.

1. #T210 Damaso Espino (First Year) (Rookie)
2. **#T76 Jay Rainville (Draft Pick) (First Year) (Rookie)**
3. #T193 Jason Frasier (First Year) (Rookie)
4. #T47 Orlando Cabrera
5. Chrome Traded #T98 Denny Bautista (First Year) (Rookie)
6. Chrome Traded #T179 Lee Gwaltney (First Year) (Rookie)
7. #T116 Kazuhito Tadano (First Year) (Rookie)
8. #T62 Braden Loper
9. #T139 Casey Daigle (First Year) (Rookie)
10. #T10 Milton Bradley

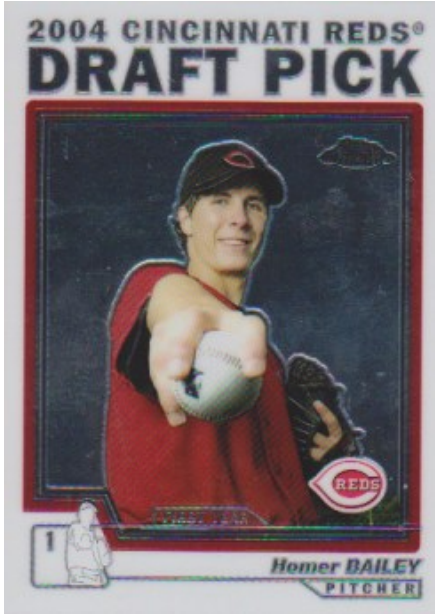
PACK 2



Carl Loadenthal was a promising hitting prospect who could just not break it into the Major Leagues. Now he's playing independent professional baseball.

1. #T130 Paul McNulty (First Year) (Rookie)
2. #T90 Matt Macri (Draft Pick) (First Year) (Rookie)
3. #T129 Jamie Brown (First Year) (Rookie)
4. #T145 Shawn Hill (First Year) (Rookie)
5. Chrome Traded #T214 Greg Thissen (First Year) (Rookie)
6. Chrome Traded #T167 Kevin Howard (First Year) (Rookie)
7. **Gold #T184 Carl Loadenthal (Serial#0474/2004) (First Year) (Rookie)**
8. #T112 Brian Dallimore (First Year) (Rookie)
9. #T50 Alex Rodriguez
10. #T42 Raul Ibanez

PACK 3



Homer Bailey hasn't had a breakout season yet, but he's made it into the Cincinnati Reds' rotation.

1. #T20 Javy Lopez
2. #T189 Yoann Torrealba (First Year) (Rookie)
3. #T93 Jonny Gomes (Prospects)
4. Gold #T178 J.J. Furmaniak (Serial#0652/2004) (First Year) (Rookie)
5. **Chrome Traded #T72 Homer Bailey (Draft Pick) (First Year) (Rookie)**
6. Chrome Traded #T131 Chris Saenz (First Year) (Rookie)
7. #T100 Kevin Youkilis (Prospects)
8. #T87 Kurt Suzuki (Draft Pick) (First Year) (Rookie)
9. #T30 Bartolo Colon
10. #T34 Dustan Mohr

PACK 4



Phil Hughes had a breakout season in 2010, going 18-8 with a 4.19 ERA for the Yankees and making it to his first All-Star game.

1. #T150 Miguel Perez (First Year) (Rookie)
2. **#T78 Phillip Hughes (Draft Pick) (First Year) (Rookie)**
3. #T205 Terry Jones (First Year) (Rookie)
4. #T8 Doug Mientkiewicz
5. Chrome Traded #T106 Chad Gaudin (Prospects)
6. Chrome Traded #T175 Juan Cedenro (First Year) (Rookie)
7. #T22 Octavio Dotel
8. #T212 Michael Mooney (First Year) (Rookie)
9. #T11 Kelvim Escobar
10. #T15 Billy Wagner

PACK 5



Freddy Garcia spent the first 5 and a half seasons of his career with the Seattle Mariners and went 76-50 with a 3.89 ERA. After being traded to the White Sox in 2004, he has gone 57-37 with a 4.44 ERA.

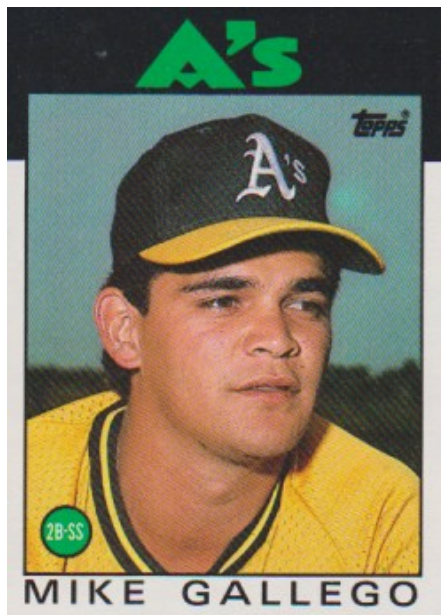
1. #T16 Terrence Long
2. #T182 Brant Colamarino (First Year) (Rookie)
3. #T55 Jeff Weaver
4. #T161 Matt Lemanczyk (First Year) (Rookie)
5. Chrome Traded #T24 Andy Pettitte
6. **Chrome Traded Refractors #T29 Freddy Garcia**

7. #T124 Fausto Carmona (First Year) (Rookie)
8. #T54 Ugueth Urbina
9. #T143 Jose Capellan (First Year) (Rookie)
10. #T191 Tim Bittner (First Year) (Rookie)

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25 Years Later... Mike Gallego

Written by Steve on October 2nd, 2010



"Mike made his major league debut: 4-11-85. First major league Run Batted In: 8-13-85. He collected 1st major league Hit: 8-22-85. He laced 1st major league Double: 9-5-85."

Interesting, he didn't get his first hit until 4 months after his debut? He batted in his first RBI before he got his first hit? Either the back of the card is wrong or he had a very weird rookie season.

Mike Gallego played in the Major Leagues 1985-1997 as a second baseman and shortstop for the Oakland Athletics, New York Yankees, and St. Louis Cardinals. He was known primarily for his defensive abilities and for being in the starting lineup for the 1989 world champion Oakland Athletics.

Today, 25 years later, Mike is the [third base coach for the Oakland Athletics](#). One of his sons, [Nick Gallego](#), was drafted in the 27th round of the 2010 MLB draft by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

1986 Topps:

1. #408 Dave Smith
2. #720 Bret Saberhagen (All-Star)
3. #748 Steve Henderson
4. #531 Tony LaRussa (Manager)
5. **#304 Mike Gallego (Rookie)**
6. #369 Al Holland
7. #91 Steve Crawford
8. #108 Ted Power
9. #783 Ricky Horton
10. #586 Greg Harris
11. #319 Rick Camp
12. #278 Sixto Lezcano
13. #52 Chris Welsh
14. #47 Juan Berenguer
15. #530 Rich Gossage

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Pack Break: 2001 Topps Series 2

Written by Steve on October 1st, 2010



"Alex began wearing No. 3 as a youngster in Miami. Back then, he often caught Braves games on TBS, and he began to idolize Atlanta's No. 3, Dale Murphy, the wholesome, hard-working outfielder who earned NL MVP Awards in 1982 and '83. A-Rod continues to don Murphy's number, saying, "He was just so professional." Today, kids nationwide admire Rodriguez for the same qualities."

Interesting, when I think of A-Rod, "wholesome" and "professional" aren't the first words that come to mind.

2001 Topps Series 2:

1. #646 Wilton Guerrero
2. #657 Jason Bere
3. #586 Kevin Stocker
4. **#612 Alex Rodriguez**
5. #783 Jackie Robinson (Golden Moments)
6. #506 Kris Benson
7. #437 Shawn Estes
8. #594 Troy O'Leary
9. #608 Ryan Klesko
10. #569 Jerry DiPoto

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